COMBINED NOTICE: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS (FONSI/NOI/RROF)

July 24, 2015

Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Division HOME Investment Partnerships Program

301 South Park Ave PO Box 200523 Helena, MT 59620-0523



JUL 2 4 2015

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about <u>Thursday August 13, 2015</u> the above-named <u>Department of Commerce</u> will submit a Request for Release of Funds and Certification to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to release HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds provided under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act, as amended:

Dakota Place Apartments

Construct a new infill development within the City of Missoula that will provide 6 affordable housing units to individuals at risk of homelessness.

Missoula Housing Authority, Missoula, MT

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named <u>Department of Commerce</u> has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for the decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows:

After careful environmental review it has been determined that the project does not have any significant impact on the environment.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-named <u>Department of Commerce</u>. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm.

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of HOME project funds.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the <u>Department of Commerce</u> to the <u>above stated address</u> on or before Monday August 10, 2015. All such comments so received will be considered and the <u>Department of Commerce</u> will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Release of Funds

The <u>Department of Commerce</u> will undertake the project described above with HOME funds provided by DOC under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act, as amended. <u>Department of Commerce</u> is certifying that <u>Jennifer Olson</u>, in her official capacity as <u>Community Development Grants Bureau Chief</u> consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that upon its approval, the <u>Department of Commerce</u> may use the HOME funds and will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to State Release of Funds

The Department of Commerce will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases:

- (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer approved by the Department of Commerce;
- (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DOC; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental design.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, 301 S. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by DOC. No objection received after <u>August 28, 2015</u> will be considered by DOC.

Jennifer Olson

Date

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